

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The Title has been replaced with the following rewritten title:

A Method of Producing an Erythroid Cell Which is Undifferentiated yet Capable of Expressing a Heterologous Protein ~~Undifferentiated Erythroid Cells and Their Use in Ligand Binding Assays~~

The Abstract has been amended as follows:

A method of producing an ~~The use of an~~ erythroid cell which is substantially undifferentiated but which is capable of expressing a heterologous protein under the control of a globin promoter thereof, which method comprises maintaining growing uninduced erythroid cells in culture for sufficient period of time that the protein is expressed, and isolating a subclone which expresses said protein. Erythroid cells produced by the method, and methods of detecting the interaction of an insect G-protein coupled receptor with an endogenous signaling cascade of erythroid cells are also ~~in an assay in which said protein interacts with an endogenous signaling cascade of said cell and said interaction is detected. In general, such assays will be functional assays. The production of suitable erythroid cells as well as cells useful in this way are also~~ described and claimed.

The second paragraph on page 4 has been amended as follows:

A particular type of cell which can form cells of the invention are subclones of the MEL C-88 cell line, an example of which was deposited at the European Collection of Cell Cultures (ECACC), Health Protection Agency, Porton Down, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 0JG, United Kingdom under the Accession number 99012801, deposited on 28 January 1999. This clone has been designated "MEL-C88L".